TL2176

PETITION AND REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM
MADE ON BEHALF OF

Joaquim Antonio Alim
Antonio Baptista Sequeira
Timoteo
Egas Soares
Nelson Turquel

TO THE EMBASSY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Monday, September 25 1995

I. I N T R O D U C T I O N

Honoured and respected Ambassador and officials of this Embassy, we come to you in the name of the youth of East Timor who live under Indonesian military occupation and constant threat to their lives and well-being. We request your protection in the sincere belief that the government of England holds in high regard the value and dignity of human life in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We come to you as witnesses to the Indonesian military brutality which since December 7 1975 has become a fact of every day life in East Timor; a military brutality which has consisted of sudden arrest, rape, intimidation, terror and slaughter of the kind the world witnessed on 12 November 1991 in Dili; a military brutality which has robbed us of the right to an education, has made us prisoners in our own country, and has now forced us to leave our beloved homeland and our families and friends.

We are here today, therefore, not as youths seeking adventure or a free trip out of this country (as no doubt the Indonesian government will attempt to convince you of in the days to come), but as persecuted individuals who fear for our lives. We trust that the government of England will assist us with our bid for political asylum, in accordance with International Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 14, Clause I of which states that "Every human being has the right to seek and be granted refuge in another country for the purpose of avoiding persecution". Article 15, Clause I of the same Declaration states that "Every person has the right to citizenship", and Clause II "No human being may be arbitrarily denied citizenship of a country or be refused their right to alter their citizenship".

II. B A C K G R O U N D

In order that you may be aware of the reality of East Timor and our situation, we would like to inform you of the following facts:

After losing our beloved friends on November 12, 1991 (many died immediately in front of the St Cruz cemetery, many in the hospital, many of them were arrested and most of them disappeared) and for the purposes of protesting against the abuses of human rights taking place in East Timor, against the use of "divide et impera" tactics and operations such as those recently conducted by the

Ninjas, we resolved to continue this struggle and to fight against the abhorrent political tactics and attitudes of the Indonesian military up until the time we left East Timor in July 1995.

Between November 12 1991 and the time we left East Timor, we have seen our people forced into hiding for fear of capture and imprisonment, as has happened recently with Sabalae, Rimisio and others. Others have been shot dead as happened during the Liquica incident, in Walaikama (Baucau) and in other places but which nobody knew about. The victims are everywhere, all over the territory, but out of fear, fail to protest to the local authorities. The East Timorese people have been economically marginalised due to the influx of Indonesian immigrants who occupy the most fertile zones and who dominate the economy and business opportunities. Employment within the civil service is monopolised by migrants from other provinces, therefore our people are growing poor. The young people are exiled, sent to work in Indonesia, with false promises of skills training, schooling, employment, social welfare and so on.

Such a situation is what has pushed us to act against the violations committed by the Indonesian military in our homeland. The consequences of such involvement are that we are pursued by the SGI and by the East Timorese mobilised by the Indonesian military as spies or informants. And even today, our families are being pressured physically and psychologically by the Intelligence to reveal our whereabouts. So we are constantly on the run, moving from place to place to evade arrest.

We five, today present in the Embassy, have experienced directly the atrocities of the Indonesian military. Two of us were captured, imprisoned and exiled after the Santa Cruz massacre. They forced us to cooperate with them to be their informants, and we were forced to report weekly. Three of us managed to escape, but nonetheless continue to be pursued by the SGI. This situation has robbed us of our freedom to grow up as other young people in other parts of the world, and we feel we have no future.

To save our lives and to escape the bleak future which threatens to overcome us and our people, we have opted to seek political asylum in this Embassy. We are fully aware of the diplomatic repercussions which our request for political asylum will have for you and your government in relations with Indonesia, however, in the interests of Truth, Justice, the upholding of International Law and human rights conventions, in addition to our our own personal safety, we strongly appeal to you to give due consideration to our request and to act in a spirit of democracy and freedom to defend our rights as prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

III. P E T I T I O N

In the interests of upholding the true meaning of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and of defending peace and freedom, justice and truth in East Timor, we request the following:

1. The implementation of all of the Resolutions or Joint Resolutions stated in the Tri-Party Dialogue (between Indonesia and Portugal) under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General, specifically the nine points contained in the declaration of the All Inclusive Intra Timorese Dialogue, signed in Burg-Schlaining, Austria.

2. The unconditional release of all East Timorese political prisoners, including the East Timorese Resistance Leader, Jose Alexandre Xanana Gusmao.

3. The inclusion and involvement of East Timorese Leader, Xanana Gusmao, in negotiations towards a settlement of the East Timor problem, and specifically in future Intra Timorese Dialogues.

4. Peace, Freedom, Justice and Truth, as the ideals to which all human beings aspire.

In the name of the peace-loving and martyred people of East Timor, we thank you for your kind attention.

Jakarta, September 25, 1995

Signed by the petitioners:

1. Joaquim Antonio Alim :
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2. Antonio Baptista Sequeira :
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3. Timoteo :
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4. Egas Soares :
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5. Nelson Turquel :
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